



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

IN CHARGE OF

EDNA L. FOLEY, R.N.

*Collaborators:* Mrs. Helen C. LaMalle, R.N., and Mary A. Mackay, R.N.

CHICAGO. At the second meeting of the Central Nursing Education Council, Mrs. Ira Couch Wood, formerly president of the Board of the Illinois Training School, gave a brief and interesting report of the luncheon given by the Rockefeller Foundation in New York City on February 28th. Helen Bennett, Manager of the Intercollegiate Bureau of Occupations, discussed the shortage of nurses and of women in work generally and brought out the following interesting facts: that all over the country this shortage is peculiar to every type of work, not merely nursing; that there were never so many young women going back to school, taking post-graduate courses or going into high school or on into college. In fact, small colleges that consider an annual increase of from ten to fifteen students normal, report that they have been turning away since last fall, from fifty to one hundred and in a few instances even more, students, whereas the larger institutions and private schools cannot begin to accommodate all of their applicants.<sup>1</sup> She traces this to the fact that the unsettled years leading up to and during the war made it necessary for a great many more women to enter industry. Now the larger wages of the fathers are making it possible for many of them to return to school, the increased earnings of the girls themselves permitted many of them to save with schooling as their aim. A number of young women are staying at home, having recognized that women do not receive equal pay for equal work, and as there is no pressing necessity, they are refusing to work outside of their own households. Married women are going back to their homes from industry and a very large number of girls who postponed their marriages are now marrying. All of these results reduce the numbers of women in both the professions and the trades, consequently the shortage is felt all along the line.

Miss Bennett brought out the fact that parents as well as college students and high school girls must be educated when the needs of the hospitals and the needs of the sick are brought forth, as it is not nearly so difficult to interest young students in nursing as it is to overcome the innate prejudices of their parents to this form of a career for their daughters. Most parents think the work is far too hard and

<sup>1</sup> This statement does not agree with information received at the JOURNAL office that the Freshmen classes of some of our best-known women's colleges are very much smaller than usual.

many of them have apparently been confirmed in this belief by the comments of family physicians.

Katherine Olmsted, who has been loaned to the Committee by the National Organization for Public Health Nursing as its Executive Secretary, discussed in detail the publicity and campaign plans of the Committee. Miss Olmsted brought out this very pertinent question: What is wrong with our training schools that they can't attract the young women who are being turned away from the over-full colleges?

Miss Henderson of the Children's Memorial Hospital announced that a committee had been formed and tentative plans laid for a centennial celebration of Florence Nightingale's birth, in Orchestra Hall on the evening of May 12th.

THE ILLINOIS SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS has had the good fortune to secure as its Executive Secretary, Marion A. Campbell, formerly with the State Board of Health of Ohio. In looking up old eye cases, Miss Campbell reports that of 164 infant cases in which the sight had been saved by prompt care, 8 had received dispensary care, 50 hospital care, and 139 owed their vision to the home nursing service of the Visiting Nurse Association.

MICHIGAN.—Mrs. Victor C. Vaughan, Jr., has been appointed head of the Council of Nursing in the Community Union of Detroit. Her office is to be in the Nurses' Club at 924 Brush Street, under whose roof now are gathered practically all of the non-institutional nursing agencies in the city. Mrs. Vaughan was Elsbeth Hosig, a graduate of Harper Hospital, formerly a member of the staff of the Visiting Nurse Association of Detroit and organizer of the nursing department of the Detroit Board of Health.

At a recent meeting of tuberculosis workers, Doctor Vaughan, president of the National Tuberculosis Association, in discussing the value of health education of all the people, said that in 1895 the state of Michigan passed a law making compulsory the teaching of the transmission of infectious diseases in every grade of the public schools, from the kindergarten through the university. In 1915, when the Legislature was asked to appropriate \$100,000 for a state-wide tuberculosis investigation, the grant was obtained because the men in the House of Representatives were boys in the public schools at the time the first law was passed. The teaching had been well done.

CONNECTICUT.—During the past year the New Haven Visiting Nurse Association has organized one central overhead management for four services of the city, the general, the tuberculosis, the child welfare and the orthopaedic. This last service is the result of the weighing and measuring campaign of the children's year, for so many deformed and crippled children were found during the

examinations that it has since required the full time of two nurses to look after them properly. The Visiting Nurse Association has for several years had a part-time nurse whose special work has been to follow up the wards of the Crippled Children's Aid but now it has established a special orthopaedic service. The association also gives an eight months' course in public health nursing in conjunction with Yale University. The superintendent, Mary Grace Hills, is enjoying a much earned sabbatical year in California. School nursing in New Haven, the only other branch of public health nursing, is under the Board of Health.

OHIO.—Olive E. Beason, former Director of the Division of Public Health Nursing of the Department of Public Health in Akron, was married November 28 to Thomas S. Husk, vice-president of the J. T. Hervey Investment Company of Cleveland, Ohio. Elizabeth J. Yost, her assistant, has been appointed her successor. An Akron nurse writes as follows to the Editor of this Department. As the Editor has known Miss Beason and her work in Chicago as well as in Akron for a number of years, it gives her a great deal of satisfaction to be able to endorse every word of this tribute:

When Miss Beason arrived in Akron, October 18, 1917, there were but seven nurses on the staff, all doing school nursing. This staff of seven nurses had been transferred from the George T. Perkins Visiting Nurse Association to the Akron Health Department, which at this time underwent a complete reorganization. At the time of Miss Beason's arrival, a small dingy corner of the City Laboratory was given her as an office, her desk was a plank placed on two carpenter horses. Great difficulty was experienced in getting as much as pencil and paper for the Nursing Division at that time.

With the efforts made by Miss Beason a part of the laboratory was partitioned off and a small private office was set aside for the use of the department, a desk and chair took the place of the planks and things began to look brighter. Miss Beason's great interest in tuberculosis began to assert itself, and the city fathers were made to see the need, with the result that a tuberculosis clinic was opened and three clinics a week were conducted. This necessitated an increase in the nursing staff.

The constant growth of the city and the many demands made on the school nurses, showed the necessity of the opening of the first Health Service Station at Bowen School. Much interest was manifested and mothers brought their babies from all parts of the city to the clinic for examination and instruction. The demand for more Health Service Stations necessitated the opening at short intervals of time, the Allen, Community House, Grace and Miller Stations. With the opening of these Stations the personnel of the staff was increased. In April, 1918, through the medium of the School Medical Inspection Service, attention was brought to the great number of anemic and poorly nourished children in the public schools, with the result that three Open Air Schools are now being supervised by our staff nurses. In addition to the children in need of fresh air treatment, 137 children were found who were suffering from the after effects of infantile paralysis. Inquiries coming into the central office aroused us to the

necessity of making some provision for these sufferers and a nurse was sent to Boston for a course in Massage and Muscle Training, at the Boston Children's Hospital. The nurse in charge of the orthopedic work now has two assistants and is instructing a nurse from the B. F. Goodrich Tire & Rubber Co.

One of the most noteworthy events of Miss Beason's directorship was the opening of the Emergency Hospital in the Armory, for Influenza cases, in October, 1918. Its period of existence was four weeks and during that time 105 children under sixteen years of age, 157 men, and 82 women, a total of 344 patients, were cared for.

A women's venereal clinic was opened late in 1919, and our staff provides a nurse for this clinic.

Miss Beason also used her influence in establishing an Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic at the Children's Hospital.

At the time of Miss Beason's resignation, our staff was composed of 32 nurses; we have five Health Service Stations, one Tuberculosis Clinic, one Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic, and one Women's Venereal Clinic.

During the month of November, 1919, 1,046 patients passed through the Department Clinics; 4,182 calls were made by Department Nurses.

At the Infant Welfare Clinics we now have 859 infants under observation; 862 children of pre-school age; 847 tuberculosis patients under the care of the Tuberculosis Nurses; 93 Orthopedic cases receiving Muscle Training and 173 children under Open Window Room observation.

I feel that the work of our Department has progressed wonderfully and it might be helpful to some pioneer to know of the difficulties encountered by Miss Beason and just how she met these difficulties and succeeded in building up a very thriving organization.

Miss Beason was greatly loved by her staff and to show this love, the nurses organized a club to be known as the Olive E. Beason Club."

MASSACHUSETTS.—The first general meeting of the Industrial Nurses' Guild of the Massachusetts State Nurses' Association was largely attended on February 21, at Boston University. Members of the Factory Nurses' Conference from all over the State were present as well as those from the Industrial Nurses' Association. The meetings of the Industrial Nurses' Guild will be held on the last Friday of each month at Boston University, and all members of the Massachusetts State Nurses Association who occupy industrial positions are eligible for membership. The Secretary of the Guild is Katharine Cartwright, Industrial Nurse for Crocker, Burbank & Company, Fitchburg, Mass.

#### THE DETROIT CENTRAL BUREAU OF NURSING

BY ELSBETH H. VAUGHAN, *Executive Secretary*

We shall not attempt to give a history of each organization connected with the Central Bureau of Nursing, at this time, but suffice it to say that members and friends interested realized for many years that the establishment of a Central Bureau would insure closer

coöperation of the nursing organizations, avoid duplications and enable the public to obtain more efficient nursing service. About three years ago, arrangements were made with the Visiting Nurses Association, 924 Brush Street, for office room for the Wayne County Nurses' Association and the Home Nursing Association. An advisory representative committee was appointed and with that came the realization of our dreams of a Central Bureau of Nursing. The functions of the organization are as follows:

I. VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION: 1. A nursing service to the needy sick in homes. 2. Prenatal service. 3. Industrial service. 4. Metropolitan Life Insurance Work. 5. Babies' Milk Fund, auxiliary of Visiting Nurses' Association. a. Prevention of infant mortality and promotion of infant welfare in rural communities.

II. HOME NURSING ASSOCIATION: 1. Selecting and supervising practical nurses in homes of patients. 2. Establishing and developing a service of graduate nurses for prenatal and maternity service.

III. The Headquarters of the First District of the Michigan State Nurses' Association, formerly known as the Wayne County Nurses' Association, includes Monroe, Macomb, Oakland and Wayne Counties, with a membership of nearly 900 graduate registered nurses, 450 of whom are doing private duty nursing and are registered with the Directory of this Association.

IV. NURSING ACTIVITIES OF THE LOCAL AMERICAN RED CROSS: 1. (a) Headquarters for enrollment of nurses to the American Red Cross Nursing Service. (b) Clearing House for any assignments made. 2. Enrollments for home nursing and hygiene classes. Headquarters for class instructors.

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE OF CENTRAL BUREAU OF NURSING: The object of this committee is to advise educational plans for the development of the work of the various organizations of this Bureau. Some of the plans under consideration are: 1. The development of the hourly nursing service. This may be done by increasing the Visiting Nurses' Staff to a large extent. A sufficiently large staff of this kind would enable the public to have skilled nursing care, where at the present time, due to the shortage of nurses and the increase in rates, individuals are suffering for the want of nursing care. 2. The maternity work, the caring for mothers during confinement, which has been started by the Home Nursing Association and is now to be made a part of the Visiting Nurses' Association, has tremendous opportunities for development. The work of these nurses can and should be made practically self-supporting.

During the past year the University of Michigan has been giving a four months' course in Public Health Nursing to graduate nurses,—

two months of theoretical work and two months of field work. Nurses taking this course were sent to Detroit for their two months of practical work, one month with the Visiting Nurse Association and one month with the Department of Health. This method has been fairly satisfactory, but both Mrs. Gretter and Miss Ross realize that some changes are necessary. After a trip to Cleveland, to ascertain methods used in that city for this purpose, a meeting of the Educational Committee was called and the question of establishing a teaching center similar to the one in Cleveland was discussed. The Department of Health has been doing some experimental work in a community health center and it seemed that this center might be used as a teaching center for students from the University of Michigan, also as a center for training applicants for Public Health Nursing to the local organizations. Considerable time and money will be necessary for the development of this part of our educational program. The question of standardization and the development of industrial nursing is also considered a part of the work of this committee.

The First District of the Michigan State Nurses' Association with the assistance of the Central Bureau has assumed the responsibility of developing and standardizing the so-called practical nurse, the Central Bureau being asked to finance the salary of the supervising nurse. Efforts are also being made to provide many educational advantages to all nurses connected with this Association.

**THE RED CROSS.**—The object of the committee on Nursing Activities is to give every woman in Wayne County an opportunity to avail herself of class instruction on Home Nursing, Hygiene and Dietetics. To stimulate the enrollment for the American Red Cross Nursing Service, also to provide headquarters for Red Cross Nursing activities.

---

#### LIVING MORE DANGEROUS THAN DEAD PEOPLE

The chief danger in holding public funerals of persons who have died of diphtheria, influenza and other communicable diseases, lies not in the danger of contracting a communicable disease from the dead body, but rather in the danger of becoming infected by persons in attendance at the funeral who may be ill, or who may be carriers of infection. During the recent influenza epidemic many boards of health throughout the United States issued absurd regulations regarding the handling of bodies of persons dead of influenza and pneumonia. When the patient is living, breathing and coughing, he is much more dangerous than when he is dead. Communicable diseases are not easily spread by persons who are not living and after a body is properly cared for there is little opportunity for a communicable disease to be contracted from that body. As for sick, coughing, weeping, nose-blowing attendants at a funeral, that is a different matter. Therein lies the danger; not in the body of the dead.—From the *California State Board of Health Bulletin*.